

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 21, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On June 21, 2010, 87 Senators sent you a letter urging your investigation of Insan Hak ve Hurriyetleri ve Insani Yardim Vakfi (IHH) for possible designation under Executive Order 13224, which targets “terrorists, terrorist organizations, and those providing financial, technological, or material support to terrorists, terrorist organizations, or acts of terrorism.” Now, one year later, we urge your formal designation of the IHH without delay. The IHH is a member of the “Union of Good,” a Saudi Arabia-based coalition formed to provide material support to the Hamas terrorist organization that was designated by the Treasury Department under Executive Order 13224 on November 12, 2008. The United States first designated Hamas as a foreign terrorist organization in 1997 and recertified this status on November 24, 2010. Hamas is responsible for the murder of at least 26 American citizens.¹

During a January 2009 meeting, Khaled Mashaal, the Chairman of Hamas’ political bureau in Damascus, thanked IHH head Bülent Yildirim for his support of Hamas. In January 2010, Yildirim visited Hamas’ Prime Minister in Gaza, Ismail Haniyeh.

A 2006 report by the Danish Institute for International Studies described the IHH as a front for funding terrorist organizations and sending Mujahidin to fight in countries such as Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Chechnya. In 2001, the IHH was named by U.S. Attorneys in a federal court trial as having played an “important role” in Al-Qaeda's failed “millennium plot” to bomb the Los Angeles International Airport.

At a Hamas rally in February 2009, the leader of the IHH and the main organizer of last year’s Gaza Flotilla, explained that IHH's Gaza-related operations are part of a global Jihad to overthrow governments and install Islamist dictatorships, saying: “[A]nyone who does not stand alongside Palestine . . . will be toppled” and “[I]f they kill me--that is martyrdom for the sake of Allah . . . The entire world must know that if they do not lift the embargo from Gaza, all the Muslims in the world will march to Gaza.”

¹ David Applebaum of Ohio; Nava Applebaum, 20, of Ohio; Alan Beer of Ohio; Marla Bennet of California; Benjamin Blutstein of Pennsylvania; David Boim, 17, of New York; Yael Botwin, 14, of California; Dina Carter of North Carolina; Janis Ruth Coulter of Massachusetts; Sara Duker of New Jersey; Matthew Eisenfeld of Connecticut; Tzvi Goldstein of New York; Judith Greenbaum of New Jersey; David Gritz of Massachusetts; Dina Horowitz of Florida; Rabbi Eli Horowitz of Illinois; Tehilla Nathanson, 3, of New York; Malka Roth, 15, of New York; Mordechai Reinitz of New York; Yitzhak Reinitz, 9, of New York; Leah Stern of New Jersey; Goldie Taubenfeld of New York; Shmuel Taubenfeld, 3 months, of New York; Nachshon Wachsmann, 19, of New York; Ira Weinstein of New York; and Yitzhak Weinstock, 19, of California.

In July 2010, Germany banned its IHH affiliate for denying Israel the right to exist and providing financing to Hamas. On May 1, 2011, the Netherlands placed the IHH Netherlands on its list of terrorist organizations.

As you know, the IHH was a leading member of the coalition that organized last year's Gaza Flotilla to breach Israel's coastal security. Before this terrorist entity is allowed to cause any more violence, we urge you to formally designate the IHH under Executive Order 13224. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



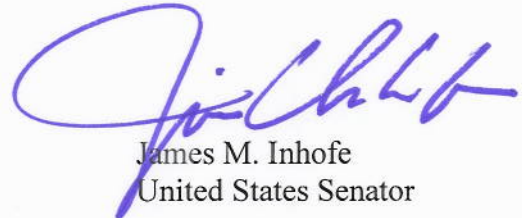
Mark Kirk
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



Mike Johanns
United States Senator